(छ) गरीबी रेखा से नीचे की जन-संख्या के पौषणिक स्तर को बढाने के लिए विभिन्न गरीबी उन्मूलन कार्यक्रम आरंभ किए गए हैं।

Assistance sought by Madhya Pradesh for flood affected farmers

*199. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the assistence sought by Government of Madhya Pradesh for providing relief to the farmers affected by recent floods has been released;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any memorandum has been received regarding inadequate amount of assistance and amendment in the norms of relief or compensation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b): In addition to the normal release of the first and second instalments of the Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for the year 1994-95, Government of India have also released the third instalment amounting to Rs. 6.9375 crores in advance, in order to enable the Government of Madhya Pradesh undertake relief measures incluing assistance to affected farmers. The fourth instalment is also baing released shortly.

(c) to (e): Government of Madhya Pradesh has represented to the X Finance Commission for enchancing the Annual allocation to the State CRF from the present level of Rs. 37.00 crores to Rs. 160.00 crores. The Commission is reviewing the existing Scheme for Financing Relief Expenditure in the wake of natural calamities as also the allocation under the CRF.

Demand to liberalise mining Policy

*200 SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries has demanded further liberalization in Government's mining policy;

(b) if so, the details of the demands made by the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries;

(c) whether Government propose to examine the views of the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries and also to liberalise the mining palicy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries has suggested inter-alia amendmentsS to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, doing away with premature termination of leases, prescribing minimum area for mining lease, deletion of First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, doing away with mining plan for less important minerals, etc.. After considering suggestions received from State Governments and other organisationns including the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries, the Act was recently amended by enactment of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Develpment) Amendment Act, 1994. No further amendments are proposed for the time being.

Shortage of Eggs

1540. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an overall shortage of eggs in the market, if so, whether Government propose to import eggs;